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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

January 15, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BLAKE FARENTHOLD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

VOLUNTARY TAXES ARE SELDOM PAID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the Internal Revenue Code allows individuals who feel they aren't taxed enough to make voluntary contributions to the U.S. Treasury. Unsurprisingly, this provision is seldom used. My Democrat colleagues should have considered this fact when drafting ObamaCare.

The public is beginning to take note of what Republicans have been point-

ing out for years: young people who sign up for ObamaCare are taking on what amounts to a voluntary, stealth tax in order to subsidize older enrollees. As the initial numbers come in, it is clear that this voluntary tax on youth will fare no better than the optional taxes already in law.

Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare will crumble—and should crumble—not because of bad Web site design or because Republicans don't like it, but because it is a flawed law built on a foundation of unsound policy presumptions.

EQUAL RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, next week, we will commemorate the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A revolutionary civil rights leader, Dr. King's movement combated the systematic discrimination against African Americans, but Dr. King fought hard not only for equal rights for African Americans. He fought equally hard for equality for all in this great Nation.

So it is altogether fitting and appropriate that we honor him and his extraordinary life, but it is equally appropriate to honor him by ending what is still legal discrimination in this country—discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community—because denying civil rights to someone based on a person's orientation is equally inherently wrong.

We are all Americans, regardless of whom we love. Why does someone's orientation affect his or her legal status in this country? Every day that we continue allowing discrimination against the LGBT community is another day that justice is delayed.

I am reminded that when Lincoln spoke at Gettysburg, he said that four

score and 7 years ago we formed a Nation based on the notion that all were created equal, and they were in a war to determine whether a Nation so conceived could long endure. But I think what we can take from that is the realization that we have to ask ourselves every so often, did we really mean it back then when we said that all were created equal?

This is one of those times when we have to ask ourselves, is everyone in this country equal?

Mr. Speaker, we can end workplace discrimination against gay men and women today. The Employment Nondiscrimination Act has 200 bipartisan cosponsors, and identical legislation has passed already in the Senate. Yes, our colleagues in the other Chamber have already taken this small, but important, step.

When will this body step up and defend the rights of the LGBT community? When will the House majority join us in the fight against inequality? Dr. King said:

The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.

Yes, the journey may be long, but I believe we can accomplish true equality for all in this country. I ask my colleagues to find the courage to stand on the right side of history. Mr. Speaker, bring ENDA to the floor and allow a vote on equality for all Americans.

CONGRESS SHOULDN'T SEND ANOTHER OMNIBUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because, like many of my 700,000 bosses back home, I am frustrated with a broken Washington.

Prior to joining this House just over 1 year ago, in my work in the private sector and in my personal life deadlines mattered. If a client needed to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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